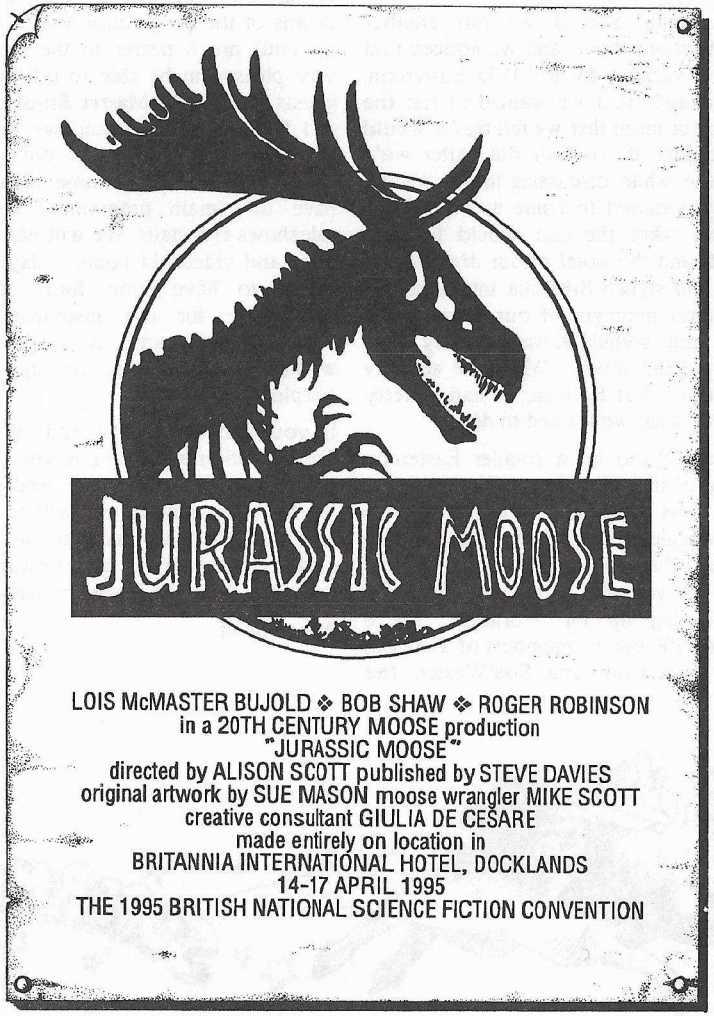
Confabulation

Progress Report 1



Progress Report 1

Chairman's bit.

It happened like this. The Fourplay committee was having one of its regular meetings, a mere ten months after the convention. We were all sitting around, wondering what excuse we could use to continue to meet up regularly.

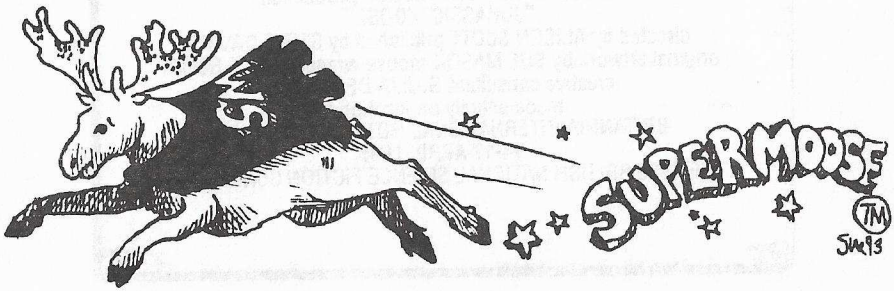
Somebody said, 'Should we run another small convention, then?' and we noticed that there was a vacancy for the 1995 Eastercon. It wasn't exactly that we wanted to run the Eastercon, but more that we felt that it would be a good idea if *somebody* did. After we'd spent a little while discussing the possibility of a bid, we started to come up with some ideas about what the con should be like. Then we found the hotel of our dreams, the charming and stylish Britannia International, and the hotel manager of our dreams, the charming and stylish Kevin Stuckey. We decided we liked moose. When we actually presented our bid at Helicon, we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted to do.

We're intending to be a smaller Eastercon than many of the recent ones. Our ideas are somewhat less grandiose, and our site is pretty convenient for many fans. We're hoping that this will make it a little les expensive for you all, in a year when you may be saving up for Worldcon. We're sending this PR out to members of Helicon, the 1993 Eastercon, and Sou'Wester, the 1994 Eastercon, as well as to our own members.

At the moment our programme is very much in the planning stage. We believe that a good Eastercon programme reacts quickly to changing themes within the SF genre, so the details of the programme will not be firmed up until much nearer to the time. We are very pleased to be able to tell you that our guests are **Lois McMaster Bujold, Bob Shaw** and **Roger Robinson,** and we intend to use the works and themes of our guests as a springboard for programme ideas. We will have one main programme stream, with sideshows and stalls. We will not be showing films and videos 24 hours a day, but we do intend to have some form of overnight programme for our insomniac members. There will be an art show, dealers' room and workshops, and we're hoping to have a couple of surprises.

If you join before the end of 1993 then Confabulation will only cost you £15. There's a membership form at the end of the PR. We're hoping that the con will be a lot of fun to attend (and as much fun as possible to organise), and I'm looking forward to seeing you there. May the Moose be with you.

Alison Scott



Guests of Honour

We will be publishing full biographies of our guests of honour in future progress reports, but here are short introductions to each of them to whet your appetites:

Lois McMaster Bujold is one of America's most popular SF authors. Her best known works are the "Miles Vorkosigan" series, two of which, *The Vor Game* and *Barrayar*, have recently won Hugo awards as the best novels of 1991 and 1992. She has also recently published a fantasy novel called *The Spirit Ring*. She has never been a guest at a British convention, and we are all looking forward to meeting her.

Bob Shaw has for many years been one of the UK's best-loved SF authors and fans. He has been writing for over thirty years and some of his most recent works, such as *Dark Night in Toyland* and the *Ragged Astronauts* trilogy are among his best. His novel *Warren Peace*, the sequel to *Who Goes Here* has just been published by Gollancz. Bob's Serious Scientific Talks have been a highlight of many Eastercons, and we are sure that he will be as entertaining as ever at Confabulation.

Roger Robinson has been active in many areas of fandom. He worked on the Beccon conventions, then spun off Beccon Publications as a successful small press, has helped to raise money for talking books for the blind and Fans Across the World, and has most recently been heavily involved with Friends of Foundation and the Science Fiction Foundation's move to Liverpool.

Docklands

Everybody's heard of London's Docklands, but many people have very little idea of what it's actually like. We want to let you know the reasons why we're holding Confabulation there, and what sort of place you should expect.

Docklands is really very close to the centre of London. For those of you with Travelcards, it's in zone 2. The Docklands Light Railway runs to South Quays, about 100 yards from the hotel, and there are numerous buses which go right to the door. At present the DLR does not run late in the evening or at weekends; when it isn't running it is replaced by a frequent bus service that is only marginally less fast than the train. The London City Airport is nearby, and you can also reach the hotel by waterbus.

The area is made up of office and residential property. It's all rather futuristic, and is occasionally reminiscent of dubious SF films. The dockside location means that most of the property (including our hotel) is waterfront, and the pattern of buildings, water, sky and construction equipment is extremely fetching. Much of the residential property is not yet occupied, and the area is very quiet at weekends. There are a good many shops, pubs and restaurants that cater for the office trade; some of these do close over the weekend but many don't.

Docklands is not very large, and is surrounded on all sides by the general hustle and bustle of the East End. In these communities you will find all the amenities you would expect in a city. In particular, Limehouse was once London's Chinatown, and still retains a thriving Chinese community.

We're holding the con in Docklands because the hotel is there, and we like the hotel. There hasn't been an Eastercon in the centre of London for a long time, and we think it's time to go back. London hotels are usually very expensive; this one is affordable because Docklands is not yet a prime location for conferences. And we think the futuristic setting suits an SF con.

The Committee

Alison Scott has been attending and organising cons for about a decade, and is now labouring under the misapprehension that she has begun to get the hang of them. She has forgotten how much hassle Follycon was, and reckoned it might be a nice idea to run another Eastercon. Her hobbies include sex, ice cream and beer, and she is rapidly acquiring a wide range of moose. She believes that the perfect convention has a nice place to sit and lounge around, interesting members, real ale and an extremely good Chinese restaurant within a mile. She is chairing Confabulation.

Mike Scott has previously been on on the committees of ConSept, Follycon, Conjunction and Fourplay, so you would have thought that he might know better by now. However, as living proof of the axiom that we never learn from experience, he is treasurer and guest liaison for Confabulation. His excuse is that he wanted to get out of working on **Intersection**, and it was all Steve Davies' idea anyway (hey, hang on a minute ... *Ed*).

All you ever wanted to know about Sue, but were afraid to ask. My first convention was in 1982, Mythcon in Birmingham. I turned up, young, sweet, innocent and discovered... Vikings, Beer, 4 am parties, Happy Hour, Fan Rooms, Masquerades... I was hooked.,Over the years I have added to my fannish interests - Gaming (Trumpton the RPG, a classic!), comics, filking, fanzine illustration, medieval re-enactment and slaving away in the Dealers' Room, parting fans from their hard earned pennies. But all that is about to change... I'm joining the ranks of the conrunners... and you are all going to jolly well enjoy the cons I help run, I know I'm going to.

Born in Australia of Italian parents, Giulia De Cesare has two nationalities to choose from. Not content with these, she came to live in the UK three years ago. The person responsible for this is Steve Davies. We ought to add something about her fannish credibility but she hasn't got any. Fabulous cook, though.

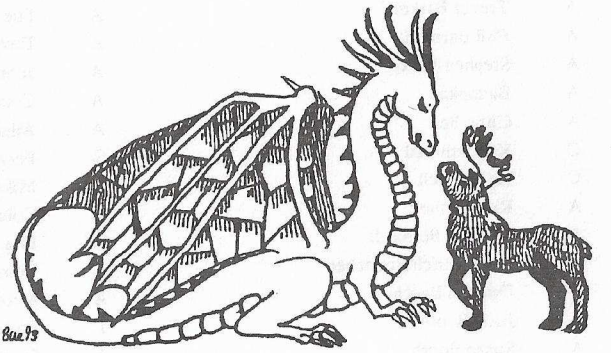
Steve first discovered fandom at Novacon 8 in Birmingham and has been going rapidly downhill ever since. He has been on a number of committees, including two previous Eastercons and is therefore the one most inclined to panic. Steve is working on Confabulation as the best possible way to avoid working on the Worldcon. Unfortunately this means hordes of people squabbling over possession of his body from the end of the Eastercon - so he's hoping to keep the con going until September.

The moose can't remember exactly where he came from, but was liberated by the rest of the Confabulation committee from Ikea after they had visited half the toyshops in England searching for moose. His first convention was Helicon but he is expecting to visit many more before Confabulation. His natural habitat is an American Discount Bookstore bag and he is very fond of cashew nuts.

The Hotel

The Britannia International Hotel is a new convention hotel in the heart of London's Docklands. Despite being newly built, it is decorated in the lush styles of a Victorian hotel. The conference space constitutes the whole of the first floor of the hotel, and comprises 11 function rooms and a bar which can be configured in a variety of different ways. The ground floor of the hotel has a coffee lounge and a large bar, as well as a carvery, pizzeria and gourmet French restaurant. The 400+ bedrooms can each be used as a single, a double or a twin, and are furnished and decorated to a very high standard. Approximately a quarter of the rooms have a whirlpool bath. Our room rates will be £31 per person per night for a double or twin, and £37 per person per night for a single. These rates include VAT and a full English breakfast with mushrooms.

The hotel isn't as enormous as many, but we feel it is particularly well-suited to the sort of con we want to run. The room we will be using as our main lounging area has an enormous picture window looking out over Docklands and Canary Wharf, as described earlier. The hotel's Operations Manager is Kevin Stuckey, who was famous during Contrivance as the hotel manager who said 'Yes!', and we're pleased to be doing business with him. It's an excellent hotel, and we're very pleased to be the first Eastercon to use it.



The Moose

The Confabulation official mammal is the common or garden moose, Latin *alces alces*. We know we sometime use a reindeer. We like them too. You may have met the Official Moose at Helicon. He doesn't have a name. If you can think of a good name for a baby moose please let us know. There will be a prize. We are also interested in moose fillos, jokes, cartoons, recipes and anything else moose-related.

Cookery Corner - the Starter

Beetroot Moose

Purée 500g cooked beetroot and a tablespoon each of orange juice and wine vinegar in a blender until they are smooth. Dissolve a tablespoon of gelatine in 50 ml boiling water and add it to the beetroot, then add a small pot of plain yoghurt and mix well. Whisk 2 egg whites until they are stiff, and gently fold them through the mixture. Pour into a moose-shaped mould and refrigerate until quite firm. Serve with salad

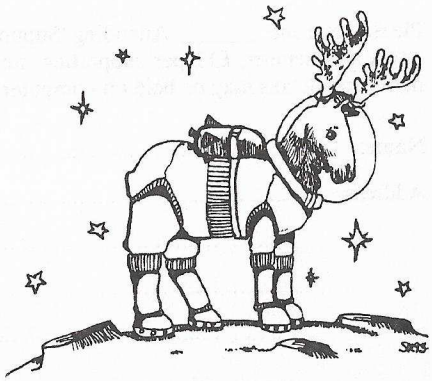
Membership List

A	½r
A	Michael Abbott
A	Arnold Akien
A	Philip Allcock
A	Lissa Allcock
A	Paul Allwood
A	Brian Ameringen
A	Friend of Fiona Anderson
A	Another Friend of Fiona Anderson
A	Fiona Anderson
A	David Angus
A	Margaret Austin
A	Amanda Baker
A	Trevor Barker
A	Phil Barnard
A	Stephen Baxter
A	Bazooka!
A	Chris Bell
C	Kenneth Bell
C	Rachel Bell
A	Ron Bennett
A	Michael Bernardi
A	Hans-Ulrich Boettcher
A	Duncan Booth
A	Judy Booth
A	Susan Booth
A	Phil Bradley
A	Jill Bradley
A	Michael Braithwaite
A	E. D. Buckley
A	Bug
G	Lois McMaster Bujold
A	Steve Bull
A	Mark A. Bunce
A	Bill Burns
A	Mary Burns
A	Steven Cain
A	Peter Card
A	Chris
A	Dave Clements
A	Chris Cooper
A	David T. Cooper
A	Count
A	Andy Croft
A	Rafe Culpin
A	John Dallman
A	Steve Davies
A	Martyn Dawe
A	Robert Day
A	Giulia De Cesare
A	Record Demon
A	Zoe Deterding
A	Martin Dickson
A	Gillian Dickson
A	Chris Donaldson
A	Paul Dormer
A	David Drysdale
A	Roger Earnshaw
A	Martin Easterbrook
A	Sue Edwards
A	Dave Ellis
A	John English
A	Coune Erik
A	Allison Ewing
S	Feryal
A	Mike Figg
A	Colin Fine
A	Brian Flatt
A	Ronan Flood
A	Mike Ford
T	Foxy
A	Susan Francis
A	Anders Frihagen
A	Gwen Funnell
A	Mary Gentle
T	Gordon T. Gopher
S	Peter Grace
S	John Graham
A	Steve Grover
A	Urban Gunnarsson
A	John Harold (Miles Veteranus)
A	Alasdair Hepburn
S	Terry Hunt
A	Rhodri James
A	Daniel James
A	Jenny
A	Jinx
A	Roz Kaveney
A	Tim Kirk
A	Pompino the Kregoyne
A	Dave Lally
A	Dave Langford

A	Murphy's Lawyer
A	Ruth Le Sueur
A	Paddy Leahy
A	Steve Linton
A	Chris Linton
S	Daniel Livingstone
A	Hans Loose
A	Bobby MacLaughlin
A	The Magician
A	Therer Marceline
A	Russell March
A	Hugh Mascetti
A	Sue Mason
A	Robert Maughan
A	Martin McCallion
T	Moose
A	Tim Morley
A	Steve Mowbray
A	Caroline Mullan
A	Andrew Norcross
A	Paul Oldroyd
A	Omega
A	Oriole
A	Arwel Parry
A	Joan Paterson
A	Dave Patterson
A	Rog Peyton
A	Arline Peyton
A	Syd Ramage
A	Deborah Ramage
A	Campbell Rees
A	Stephen Rice
G	Roger Robinson
A	Tony Rogers
A	Howard Rosenblum
A	June Rosenblum
I	Michelle Rosenblum
A	Stephen Rothman
A	Marcus L. Rowland
A	Sharon Sbarsky
A	Alison Scott
A	Mike Scott
S	Sharon
G	Bob Shaw
A	Pat Silver
A	Ken F. Slater
A	Frank R. Smith
A	Smitty
A	Kate Soley
A	James Steel
A	Helen Steele
A	Barbara Stewart
A	John Stewart
A	Alex Stewart
A	Lars Strandberg
A	Charles Stross
A	Graham Taylor
A	Marc ter Horst
A	Dave Thomas
A	Tibs
A	Deborah Tompkinson
S	Tony
T	Totoro 2
A	Larry van der Putte
A	Peter Wareham
A	Pam Wells
A	Colin Wightman
A	Robert Williams
A	Anne Woodford
A	Alan Woodford

G = Guest
A = Attending
S = Supporting
C = Child
I = Infant
T = Toy

List correct as of June 1993



Name the Moose...

Notices

Confabulation now has an electronic mail address. Please send email to confab@moose.demon.co.uk

Lost - One of our members, Gordon the Gopher, went missing during Helicon. Will the person who removed him from the bar kindly return him to his owner.

Wanted - Volunteers to help on Ops, Security etc. Please write to us at the convention address (3 York Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9QA) saying what you'd like to do.

T-shirts soon to be available at a price of £6.50 showing the moose in a compromising position with international sex symbol Canary Wharf. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Don't know what all this is about? Want to convince a friend to come along but don't know where to start? Send SAE for our free leaflet, *What is a Science Fiction Convention?*

We will have some space free on the programme for people who want to organise their own items. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact us and let us know what you are planning. It will not be possible to turn up on the day and get space since we only have a restricted amount. Note that if your plans involve the display of copyright material (films, videos, etc.) you must be able to demonstrate to our satisfaction that your usage is legal.

Going to the Worldcon in San Francisco? Confabulation will have a presence there and would be interested in hearing from you.

Confabulation, 3 York Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9QA

Please send me _____ Attending/Supporting membership(s) of Confabulation at £15 per attending member, £10 per supporting member (rate valid until 31/12/93). I agree that my name and details may be held on computer database.

Name: ....

Address: ....

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Telephone: ....

Email: ....

Badge name: ....